

**JERRY E. MCCARTHY, JR.**  
**330 Lake Collins Road**  
**Twin City, GA 30471**

January 31, 2003

Country of Origin Labeling  
Agricultural Marketing Service, USDA  
Attn: William T. Sessions, Associate Deputy Administrator  
Stop 0249 Room 2092-S  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0249

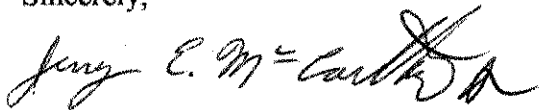
Dear Mr. Sessions:

I am a pecan grower of twelve acres in Bulloch County, Georgia. I have worked with pecans and pecan growers for the past seven years. In this period of time, I have seen the many ups and downs of the pecan market. It is my observation and opinion that we need a Country of Origin Labeling on pecans sold in the United States.

With the increasing number of imports from other countries, I believe that the Country of Origin Labeling would help boost the consumers demand for pecans grown in the United States. If given a choice between U.S. or foreign grown pecans, it is also my opinion that consumers would have a greater tendency to choose pecans grown by U.S. growers.

Thank you for your time and effort in considering this request. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 912-865-5618.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jerry E. McCarthy".

Jerry E. McCarthy